

An Essay
on

"Cause and Effect"

respectfully submitted
to the Faculty
of the

Homoeopathic Medical College
of Pennsylvania
by

Geo. Gaul Hosman
of Brooklyn B

Philadelphia January 1856.

Cause and Effect.

In no department of science, more than in that of medicine, is the working of Cause and effect more apparent when simplified - we have the intricate workings of disease - The incontrovertible results of medicine - the varying appearances of the system, under as many varying auspices continually agreeing in the final result after a studied application of observed means.

We are frequently called upon to antidote phenomena, to which our antidote would be like shooting in the dark could we not trace

from unvarying effect, the original
cause - Yet many as could be
cited, the instances of never differing
causes and effects, there are far
more that are wrapped in mystery
than in any other field -

The mutuality between the definable
and the indefinable are like the
colors of the rainbow forever distinct
yet forever blending.

As examples of two particularly
marked antagonistic ^{instances} of the seen
and the unseen cause with the
invariable result - are first the
"Vaccine" and second the "Maligne
Pustule" - In the first we have
certain guides - the pustule on
the cow's udder - The appearance in
successful vaccination hardly

differing a day in a majority of trials, - again the effects on the influenced system, the unmistakable vaccine crossness of children and still again the modified smallpox of which this vaccine influenced system admit - In the second we see first the Pustule developing on the patient and that with so much ambiguity that even our most clear observing physicians, fail to detect the malignancy until oftentimes too late. Yet its source is so far I think unknown, at least, certainly - There is some alliance between this disease and the "Charbon" of the French still the opening as to its origin each perhaps well founded and

all differing as they do, throw a
haze of doubt around it at
present impenetrable.

Blinded as is with the study
of medicine an intimate knowledge
of Cause and effect our stock
cannot be too much increased
by close research and study —
Perhaps our generation is too
short for us to add our mite
to the monument already prepared
as our race, still it is our
duty and we can do no less
than ^{endeavor to} add our link to the chain
of evidence —

The contingencies of the pro-
= fusion mostly combat our dispo-
= sition to minutely observe symptoms —
We do not continue to see our

patient during his mutability, and
our information thro' a third
person, is at the best uncertain,
And I doubt not some most
valuable aid in Symptomatology
has been lost by inaccurate
representation - The Homoeopathic
system of medicine is most
particularly dependant on a
precise distinction as to symptoms -
The theory of Homoeopathic cure
involves in all cases a strict
reliance on "Effect" judging from
"Cause" at sometime hitherto
existed, and some very interesting
researches can be made, and an
even more interesting field surveyed in
theorizing on the "Rationale of cure"
for which of course I have no place.

In Surgery - The Surgeon requires
certainly a strict knowledge of
Mechanics - the first laws of
which involve "Cause and Effect"
He must trace in the fractured
bone or in the lacerated tissue
the likely amount of tissue or
material implicated and the
to-be-expected results in different
applied restorative surgical
methods, and what guides him
is the experience of years in
faithful watching of the previous
results of in-the-same-manner-
applied means in various cir-
= Cumstances?

There are certain states of
the stomach indicated by various
appearances of the tongue and

if properly understood almost
always reliably. There are
in the incipit stage of many
diseases a variety of signs by
which the advent of each may
be determined

There is too in the Theory of
Procreation much doubt and I
think always will be, nevertheless
I consider this one of the most
beautiful instances of strictly
exampld "Cause and Effect"
and of the admirable adaptation
and accomodating of nature to
absolute and inevitable circumstance.

There is too the "Awful
uncertainty of medicine" which
implies that all remedies are
likely to fail - This (altho' it

may appear presumptuous) I am
not in all conditions willing to
admit because we find in num=
=erous trials that administered drugs
produce given effects on the healthy
organism - Now we administer
the drug in disease, we prescribe
it by excellent authority our judg=
=ment and the authority agree or
the books and the veteran prac=
=titioners agree the drug apparently
is purely indicated and - it fails -
The failure of course must be
attributed to the awful uncertaim=
=ty of medicine - This human
machine is so constructed that
the fractured eye has not been
able to detect death purely waking,
and from out of death, apparent

to all behoed, the subject has
risen to life and health. Symptoms
sometimes lie egregiously and therefore
are not a sure index - besides
all mens judgements are not the
same and why may not the most
experienced doctor mis-choose
his remedy? I am convinced that
more failures should be attributed
to an injudicious selection -
than are -.

Likewise we have many learned
disquisitions on the origin, rise,
and cause of disease - particularly
plausible still very likely to mis-
lead - all fevers of miasmatic
origin we trace to the malaria
of some particular locality.
Fevers and Ague may occur

habitually in a certain high lo-
= cality with swamp land or stagnant
pools contiguous - yet persons
living within a mile or so never
contract it - The miasm is
capable of extending from its
source to the affected district
should certainly be capable of
spreading further and it might
be asked why not "ad infinitum"?
- true - why not?

The miasm of Cholera
spread in a large part but sure
circuit from East to West around
the entire globe -

Admitting that we have indispu-
= tably determined the locality
and the existence of the miasm -
have we enlightened ourselves as

to its method of affecting the healthy organization?

The first knowledge we get, is, that the system is impregnated with and is possessed of the disease.

The "Yellow Fever" which raged so fearfully during the last summer came and went and left no trace of its origin -

There are instances of Effect we can imagine the Cause but we cannot determine it.

There are instances of the same effect from different causes also the same cause producing different effects and I know of no better example to elucidate these assertions than "Alcoholic" liquor - the Contrariety of

effect of which is too well known
to require here an explanation

I might draw parallel on par-
allel on individual principles
still I would have proved nothing.

And lastly I would add - let
it be admitted that we have in
medicine, causes and that to
those causes are subtended cer-
tain effects - let it be admitted
that those causes act with the
more certain effect when untraced
by counteracting influences, let
it be admitted that disease
has strongly marked landmarks
for diagnosis, that drug effects
presumably occasionally pathognomonic
effects - that a drug produces a

a more certainly traceable effect
delivered to the healthy organism,
let it be made evident to the
observer that a drug chosen, which
causes in the healthy subject a
symptom or train of symptoms
similar to the pathogenetic symptoms;
which, administered in Homoeopathic doses,
has, does, and will alleviate the
disease, and our system of
medicine is proved and sustained
by the mathematical & universal
law of "Cause and Effect".

For Essay
on the
History of the
United States

By the Hon. John C. Calhoun
of South Carolina

Delivered at the
Senate Chamber

on the 17th of February
1847

Printed by
G. W. Wood

Washington
1847